

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SCCT-01 SY-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CAB-02 COME-00

DOTE-00 EB-07 CIEP-01 FAA-00 /092 W

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P R 131455Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7841

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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EO 11652: N/A

TIGS PINS, TU, CASC, ASEC, LY

SUBJECT: LIBYAN DIPLOMAT AT ISTANBUL AIRPORT

DURING TERRORIST ATTACK

REF (A) KUALA LUMPUR 4657 (B) ISTANBUL 3109

1. LIBYAN DIPLOMAT NURI MISMARI, WAS AT YESILKOY AIRPORT WHEN TWO PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS LAUNCHED AUGUST 11 ATTACK AGAINST EL AL PASSENGERS. ACCORDING TO MISMARI, HE WAS TRAVELING WITH THREE OTHER LIBYAN DIPLOMATS ENROUTE TO COLOMBO WHERE THEY WERE ALL INVOLVED IN PREPARATIONS FOR MEETING OF NON-ALIGNED NATIONS. HE CLAIMED THAT HE WAS PROTOCOL CHIEF FOR LIBYAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND THE HE HAD COME TO ISTANBUL FROM LONDON VIA ROME. HE ARRIVED ABOARD SAME ALITALIA FLIGHT 700 AS DID TERRORISTS AND HAD TICKETS FOR DEPARTURE ON SAME FLIGHT AS TERRORISTS (PIA 708).

2. ACCORDING TO HIS STORY TO POLICE WHICH CONGEN LOCAL PRESENT

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AT POLICE STATION EVENING AUGUST 11 PARTIALLY INTERPRETED,

WHEN ATTACK TOOK PLACE, HE BECAME SEPARATED FROM FRIENDS AND

AS CLEARED OUT OF AIRPORT BY TURKISH SECURITY GUARDS. HIS
THREE COMPANIONS APPARENTLY REMAINED IN AIRPORT, BOARDED
THE PIA PLANE AND CONTINUED ON TRIP WITHOUT HIM. HE THEN WENT
TO A POLICE STATION, AND WAS IMMEDIATELY TAKEN TO ISTANBUL
FIRST (POLITICAL) POLICE SECTION FOR QUESTIONING

3. AT FIRST, POLICE APPARENTLY BELIEVED HE MAY HAVE BEEN
SOURCE OF WEAPONS USED BY TERRORISTS. HOWEVER, AUTHORITIES
APPARENTLY BELIEVED HIS STORY AFTER CORROBORATING IT WITH
REPRESENTATIVES OF LIBYAN CONSULATE GENERAL AND HE WAS RELEASED,
AUGUST 13 NEWSPAPERS REPORT THAT TWO TERRORISTS CLAIM IN
THEIR STATEMENT THAT THEY OBTAINED WEAPONS IN LIBYA BEFORE
DEPARTURE FOR ROME AND SMUGGLED THEM
PAST AIRPORT SECURITY AS CANNED GOODS. BATJER

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